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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/822,921

Examiner

Laura A Grier

Applicant(s)

CHEN, SUN-CHUNG

Art Unit

2644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to paper -- 4/13/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,4,6-10,12,14,15 and 17-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 13 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Attorney Authorization

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dan McClur on 2/1/05.

Amended Changes

3. The application has been amended as follows:
 - a) Abstract: "disclosed" in line 1 has been removed.
 - b) Claims 2, 5, 11, 13, 16 and 21 have been deleted.
 - c) Claim 1, line 14, "." has been deleted, and -- ; wherein each of the first pre-processing devices contains a first DC level filter circuit to filter out the DC level of the first audio signal, and a first DC level adjusting circuit to receive the DC level filtered first audio signal from the first DC level filter circuit and to adjust the DC level of the first audio signal to the first predetermined value; and the first post-processing device contains a second DC level adjusting circuit to receive the selected first audio signal from the first multitasking switch and adjusts the DC level of the selected first audio signal to the first predetermined value, and a second DC level filter circuit to receive the DC level adjusted first

audio from the second DC level adjusting circuit and to filter out the DC level of the first audio signal for output to the audio signal output device;

and wherein the first DC level adjusting circuit contains a first resistor and a second resistor, a first end of the first resistor in electrical communications with a high level, a second end of the first resistor in electrical communications with a first end of the second resistor, and a second end of the second resistor in electrical communications with a low level; and the second DC level adjusting circuit contains a third resistor and a fourth resistor, a first end of the third resistor in electrical communications with the high level, a second end of the third resistor in electrical communications with a first end of the fourth resistor, and a second end of the fourth resistor in electrical communications with the low level. -- has been inserted.

- d) Claim 12, line 4, between the words, “audio and transmitted”, -- signals -- has been inserted.
- e) Claim 12, line 11, before, “.”, -- ; filtering out the DC levels of the first audio signals before adjusting the DC level of the first audio signals; and filtering out the DC level of the selected 1st audio signal and DC level adjusted first audio signal after the DC level of the selected first audio signal is adjusted; and wherein the DC levels of the DC level filtered first audio signals are adjusted using a first resistor and a second resistor, a first end of the first resistor in electrical communications with a high level, a second end of the first resistor in electrical

communications with a first end of the second resistor, and a second end of the second resistor in electrical communications with a low level; and the DC level of the selected first audio signal is adjusted using a third resistor and a fourth resistor, a first end of the third resistor in electrical communications with the high level, a second end of the third resistor in electrical communications with a first end of the fourth resistor, and a second end of the fourth resistor in electrical communications with the low level -- has been inserted.

- f) Claim 6, line 1, "5", has been removed and -- 1-- has been inserted.
- g) Claim 7, line 1, "5", has been removed and -- 1 -- has been inserted.
- h) Claim 8, line 1, "5", has been removed and --1 -- has been inserted.
- i) Claim 9, line 1, "5", has been removed and --1 -- has been inserted.
- j) Claim 10, line 1, "5", has been removed and -- 1-- has been inserted.
- k) Claim 14, line 1, "13", has been removed and --12 -- has been inserted.
- l) Claim 15, line 1, "13", has been removed and --12 -- has been inserted.
- m) Claim 17, line 1, "16", has been removed and --12 -- has been inserted.
- n) Claim 18, line 1, "16", has been removed and --12 -- has been inserted.
- o) Claim 19, line 1, "16", has been removed and --12 -- has been inserted.
- p) Claim 20, line 1, "16", has been removed and --12 -- has been inserted.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 4, 6-10, 12, 14,15, and 17-20 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1 and 12, the prior art of record (Lazzeroni et al.) is drawn to an audio system comprising multiple audio devices for input via an input section and switching device coupled to a controller for selecting a particular audio device and controlling the level of each of the audio devices. However, the prior art of record fails to specifically disclose the adjusting the DC level of the audio signal to a first predetermined value, and the post-processing device that adjusts the DC level of the selected first audio signal, the structure and function of the pre-processing devices and post-processing device; and the structure and function of the first and second DC level adjusting circuits, therein.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura A Grier whose telephone number is (703) 306-4819. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh N Tran can be reached on (703) 305-4040. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura A. Grier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laura" being more prominent.

Laura A. Grier
February 3, 2005